

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 287269  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS/LVA  
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS  
C:IWOLF  
H:PSTAHNKE  
S/S-O:LRFLEISCHER

-----025861 020145Z /62

P 012348Z DEC 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 287269

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PGEN, HU, US, VT

SUBJECT: CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN

REF: BUDAPEST 4161

1. STAHNKE (H) AND ANDREWS (EUR/EE) DISCUSSED REFTEL WITH CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI AND CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON DEC 1. ZABLOCKI READILY ACCEPTED THE CARDINAL'S STATEMENT THAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH COULD NOT GUARD THE CROWN. HE SAID IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER IN OUR DOMESTIC TERMS IF THE CROWN COULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE CHURCH.

2. HAMILTON QUESTIONED THE PART OF THE QUOTATION IN WHICH THE CARDINAL SAYS: "THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SUPPORTS THE RETURN OF THE CROWN." HE SAID THIS CANNOT MEAN WHAT IT SAYS BECAUSE THE VATICAN IS NEUTRAL ON THE SUBJECT. ANDREWS

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EXPLAINED HE WAS CLEARLY THINKING OF THE CHURCH IN HUNGARY. BOTH ZABLOCKI AND HAMILTON THOUGHT THAT THE CARDINAL'S PUBLIC STATEMENT, ORAL OR WRITTEN, COULD BE VERY USEFUL IN CLARIFYING THE SENTIMENT OF THE HUNGARIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND PEOPLE. HAMILTON STRESSED THAT, IF THE CARDINAL FELT HIMSELF AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK ON THIS ISSUE ON BEHALF OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AS A WHOLE AND COULD REFLECT THIS IN HIS

PUBLIC STATEMENT, IT COULD BE EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT.

3. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO CONVEY THIS INFORMATION TO THE CARDINAL. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE TRANSLATED TEXT OF CARDINAL'S PUBLIC STATEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR USE HERE. EMBASSY MAY ALSO WISH TO DRAW ATTENTION OF WIRE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER FOREIGN PRESS TO ANY SUCH STATEMENT SO THAT IT MAY BE MORE WIDELY DISSEMINATED. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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